Prevention of ecological Disruptions of Tourist Spots

1434. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: state:

(a) what precautions are being taken to prevent ecological disruptions in our bid for tourism development for earning more foreign exchange;

(b) what is the current ecological status of tourist spots in Kovalam, Mahabalipuram, Thekkady and Puri;

(c) whether any mechanism is in operation to monitor regularly the environmental factors in the all major tourist spots; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) While planning for tourism development, ecological factors are given due consideration. Precautions taken in this regard include ban on construction of Tourist Resorts up to 500 metres of the high tide line in coastal areas except for selected beaches where construction is permitted subject to certain safeguards and guidelines, controlled development in Wildlife Sanctuaries, etc. No specific study has been conducted to assess the current ecological status of Kovalam, Mahabalipuram, Thekkady and Puri. However, the respective State Governments have been asked to prepare status reports of coastal areas which include the tourist spots in these areas. Under the Water (Prevention and Control) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the State Pollution Control Boards have been set up for monitoring the pollution control measures.

Drug Addiction in University Campuses

1435. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in most of the University campuses in the country, drug addiction is prevalent amongst the youth;and

(b) if so, what remedial steps are being taken by Government to save our young generation from this evil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) No study has been conducted about the incidence of drug addiction in university campuses. However, the prevention of drug abuse has been receiving attention and the University Grants Commission has written to all the Vice-Chancellors about the necessity for control and preventive measures against drug abuse and that steps be taken to create awareness about the consequences of drug addiction. A number of universities have taken various measures in this direction including introduction of counselling and guidance with a focus on drug abuse control.

Food assistance project of UN World Food Programmes

1436. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 2.12 million women and children in five States are likely to be benefited from Food Assistance Project of the UN World Food Programme;

(b) if so, the details of beneficiaries of this project, approved at Rome; and

(c) the names of the States likely to get benefit therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND